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| 10/812,148 | 03/29/2004 | Gary W. James | METZ 200011US01 | 2979 |
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| EXAMINER | | | | |
| ING, MATTHEW W | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 3637 | | | | |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,148

Applicant(s)

JAMES ET AL.

Examiner

MATTHEW W. ING

Art Unit

3637

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 6 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5, 6 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(c) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/5/10 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1, 5-6, & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Winquist (1,164,439) in view of Vargo (4,553,725), Young (3,677,202), Evans (3,168,365), & Znamirovski (4,288,132).
4. Winquist teaches a second side wall (1 on one side of the cabinet) positioned opposite a first side wall (1 on other side of the cabinet), each of said first & second side walls having flanges (9) extending from opposite edges (i.e., front & rear edges) wherein at least one of said flanges comprises a pair of circular (Fig. 6) openings (through which 10 pass) formed therein; wherein said openings are positioned near opposite ends (i.e., front & rear ends) of said at least one of said flanges; wherein said first & second side walls each comprise a central wall (1) from which said flanges extend, and respective first & second support members (8) punched out of and extending from said central walls adjacent an end thereof opposite an end of said central wall adjacent said at least one of said flanges which comprises said circular openings (Fig. 1), such

that a first opening is formed said central wall adjacent the first support member wherein the first support member includes a straight first leg extending perpendicular to the central wall and a straight second leg extending perpendicular from the first leg spaced from and substantially parallel to central wall, the second leg includes first and second linear portions; said second support member being positioned at substantially the same height from the base wall as the first support member on the first wall (Fig. 1); a third rear wall (11) interconnecting the first and second side walls; a base wall (45) interconnecting the first, second and third walls; a removable shelf (52) including a planar surface and first, second, third, & fourth flanges each depending from an end of the planar surface.

5. The only difference between Winquist and the invention as claimed is that Winquist fail(s) to teach a rounded portion extending between said first and second linear portions and a hemispherical dimple with rounded edges punched in a straight portion of the second leg, wherein said dimple extends toward said first opening; a third support member upon the third wall; a door hingedly connected to one of said first and second side walls and said base wall; wherein each of said flanges of said shelf comprises a pair of circular openings for receiving completely therethrough one of said dimples of one of said first, second and third support members; and disposition of a support wall between first & second side walls along a direction perpendicular to a shelf.

6. Vargo, however, teaches the inclusion of a hemispherical dimple (94) with rounded edges punched in a straight portion of the second leg, wherein said dimple extends toward a first opening; as well as the inclusion, in opposed shelf flanges (84), of a pair of circular openings (88) through which dimples are capable of completely extending. See Figs. 1-4. Additionally,

Young teaches rounding a portion extending between first & second linear portions. See Fig. 4. Additionally, Evans teaches the inclusion of a third support member (on 18) upon a rear wall, said third support member being identical to first & second support members (on 46); as well as disposition of a support wall (45) between first (12) & second (13) side walls along a direction parallel thereto but perpendicular to a shelf (20) & a base wall, and supporting said shelf. Additionally, Znamirovski teaches the inclusion of a door (16-17) hingedly connected to one of said first and second side walls (13-14).

7. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include hemispherical dimples & circular openings, as taught by Vargo, upon the support members & flanges, respectively, of Winquist, in order to provide a more secure connection therebetween; to provide the support members of Winquist as modified by Vargo with rounded upper edges, as taught by Young, in order to facilitate assembly of the cabinet; and to reduce the probability of physical harm to a user via the elimination of sharp corners; to add a third support member to the third wall of Winquist as modified by Vargo & Young, said third support member being identical to the first & second support members thereof, as taught by Evans, in order to provide additional support to the shelf thereof; to add a support wall, as taught by Evans, beneath the shelf of Winquist as modified, in order to permit better organization of the contents beneath said shelf while providing additional support thereto; and to include add doors, as taught by Znamirovski, to the cabinet of Winquist, in order to permit concealment of the contents thereof, thereby providing the structure substantially as claimed.

8. Regarding claims 1, 6, & 9, the support members of Winquist are considered lances, Winquist teaches a cabinet fabricated from metal (page 1, line 10).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5-6, & 9 have been considered but are not persuasive. Said arguments have been addressed in the prior art rejection above.

10. Whereas the objection to the drawings & the rejections of claims 1, 5-6, & 9 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, have been rendered moot by applicant's amendments to the claims, said objection & rejections have been withdrawn.

Conclusion

11. This is a Request for Continued Examination of the instant application. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered earlier in prosecution. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW W. ING whose telephone number is (571)272-6536. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darnell M. Jayne can be reached on (571) 272-7723. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Janet M. Wilkens/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3637

MWI
8/10/10